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## JAPAN - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** Japan first participated in the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) in 1930. Since 1950, Japan has been participating in the WCA every ten years and, in between, quinquennial censuses of agriculture have been conducted. In the years when the decennial or the quinquennial census is not taken, sample surveys are carried out in respect to items similar to those investigated in the census.

**Organization:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is in charge of the design and the overall supervision of the Census. The 1990 Farming Census was carried out by the Dynamic Statistics Department in the Statistics and Information Section of the Ministry's Economics Bureau. In each Prefecture and in the administrative unit of Hokkaido, the Statistics Division was entrusted with census operations at local level. Prefectures (plus Hokkaido) were the local public bodies in charge of guidance for census to local bodies at lower level like cities, wards, towns and villages. Those were, in turn, in charge of survey sections placement, and of supervisors and enumerators selection. 11,100 supervisors and 210,000 enumerators were appointed for the 1990 Census of Agriculture.

**Enumeration period:** The enumeration day was 1 February 1990 for all prefectures, excluding Okinawa Prefecture, for which it was 1 December 1989.

**Reference date:** Data on crop production, employment and use of machinery refer to the 12 months preceding the census; all other items refer to the enumeration day.

### Definitions:

- Farm household is a household engaged in agriculture with at least 0.1 Ha of cultivated land, or a sales value of agricultural products in the previous 12 months of at least 150,000 yen.
- Commercial farm household: is a household engaged in agriculture with at least 0.3 Ha of cultivated land, or a sales value of agricultural products in the previous 12 months of at least 500,000 yen.
- Non-commercial farm household: is a household engaged in agriculture with less than 0.3 Ha of cultivated land, or a sales value of agricultural products in the previous 12 months of less than 500,000 yen.

**Coverage:** The census covered all farm holdings in the country. Because the climate and type of agriculture are different among Hokkaido, Okinawa, and the other Prefectures, three types of questionnaires that included different items were used.

**Frame:** Starting from the evaluation of 140,000 rural communities identified in the Prefectures and Hokkaido, some 210,000 enumeration sections, reporting an average of 19 farm households each, were established. To define a list of these sections, those which were set for the previous 1985 Census of Agriculture, duly reviewed and amended, were considered. Local Bodies also prepared a Check-up Sheet, listing all households considered involved in agriculture.

**Methods:** From 1-15 February, the enumerators visited all households listed on the Check-up list within the survey section in their charge, and interviewed the head of the household. To those identified as farm households, a questionnaire sheet was distributed. Later, enumerators revisited the households to check the filled-in forms and to conduct a hearing interview. A follow-up survey, based on 1 percent of the Survey Sections, was conducted by application of the random system sampling method.

**Data source:** Government of Japan - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Statistics Information Department - Report on Results of 1990 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry in Japan, September 1992.

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